Term Paper

Judaism & Christianity

The Separation between God and Man

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1. Introduction

I am writing about this topic to provide an overview of the worldview of Jews and Christians. In ethics class, I believe there is too little discussion about this, focusing mainly on topics like ‘What do the places of worship look like in world religions?’ However, to understand the followers of these religions, one must be familiar with their theological perspectives. This includes their views on the origin of the world, God, and why humans exist on Earth. I will delve into the final point: why, according to Judaism and Christianity, humans inhabit the Earth. The first point covers the Jews and their origins, the second explores the concept of the Fall, and the last discusses Jesus Christ.

2. The Jews

2.1 The Origin

[1]The Jews, also known as the people of Israel, were enslaved in Egypt and led out of Egypt by Moses. This is revealed in the first book of Moses. Later, Moses leads the Jews to the promised land called Israel. In the second book of Moses, Moses delivers the 10 commandments to the Jews. Starting from the second book of Moses, reconciliation between the people of Israel and God is also reported.

2.2 The Purity Laws

[2]In the Old Testament, animals had to be sacrificed to be considered pure. There were different types of sacrifices, including the [3]burnt offering, the grain offering, the peace offering, the sin offering, and the guilt offering. For most sacrifices, a flawless animal had to be slaughtered and burned. The blood of the animal was smeared on the altar. [4]This symbolized life as described in the third book of Moses. Food could also be offered. This was usually wheat flour or unleavened bread mixed with oil.

3. The Fall of Man

3.1 The Origin

[5]Sin means rebellion against God and disregard for His laws. This results in a separation from God. Initially, the first humans, named Adam and Eve, lived in peace with God and were sinless. God gave them only one rule: [6]*'Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.'* So, they had a choice to listen to God or not. Later, the fallen angel named Satan deceived them. [7]He told them: *'Ye shall not surely die'* Then he said: *'for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil.'* Eve took the fruit and ate it, betraying God. Adam followed her. When God confronted them, He cursed both of them and all their descendants. [8]Because of Adam's mistake, all humans are sinners and guilty before God. [9]The origin of sin is explained in chapter 5 of Romans.

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1 https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geschichte_der_Juden (29.02.2024)
2 https://www.bibelworte.net/warum-mussten-im-alten-testament-tiere-geopfert-werden/ (29.02.2024)
3 Leviticus 1:2-9; Leviticus 1:1-15; Leviticus 3:1-17; Leviticus 4:1-35; Leviticus 7:1-37
4 Leviticus 17:11
5 https://www.bibelworte.net/was-ist-suende/ (07.03.2024)
6 Genesis 2:16-17 - American Standard Version (ASV)
7 Genesis 3:4-5 - American Standard Version (ASV)
8 Romans 5:19
9 Romans 5:12

3.2 The Consequences

As God told them, they must die and bear the consequences of their actions. [10]In Romans, it also says: *'the wages of sin is death'* This is also stated in many other verses. When they were still with God, they didn't have to die. [11]However, after being cursed, they must spend eternity in hell after their death. Additionally, the Fall of Man also resulted in no peace among animals, leading them to kill each other. This also applies to natural disasters, as they were not part of God's plan. But that's not all; sin can also harm other people. [12] [13]The best example of this is the Ten Commandments that Moses delivered to the Israelites. The first commandment states that the Israelites should have no other gods besides YHWH and should not engage in idolatry. The second commandment prohibits mocking God's name. The third commandment instructs the Jews to sanctify the Sabbath. Commandments 4 to 10 harm other people and forbid disrespect toward one's parents, murder, adultery, theft, slander, and envy. In the New Testament, Jesus mentions other things, [14]such as insulting being a sin or [15]lusting after someone being a sin.

3.3 The Solution

[16] [17]As God already said, one must die when they sin. While God desires a friendship with humans, He does not simply forgive them, as that would be unjust. In the Old Testament, the Jews sacrificed animals to atone for their sins. However, this is no longer the case in the New Testament, as God made a new covenant. The Bible states: *[18]' For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.'* This verse summarizes the gospel, also known as the 'saving message.' The verse says that Jesus died for people so that every sin can be forgiven.

Jesus Christ

4.1 The Birth

[19]Jesus Christ, also known as Jesus of Nazareth, is the Messiah and Son of God. He was sent into the world to save humanity from their sins. His name 'Jesus' is the translation of his Aramaic name 'Yeshua.' [20]He was born between 0 and 7 AD to the [21]Virgin Mary in Bethlehem. The exact date is unknown, as historians disagree, and the Bible does not specify a date.

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10 Romans 6:23 - American Standard Version (ASV)
11 https://www.bibelworte.net/was-ist-suende/ (07.03.2024)
12 https://www.kirche-u30.de/10-gebote-bibel/ (07.03.2024)
13 Deuteronomy 5:6-21
14 Matthew 5:22
15 Matthew 5:28
16 https://www.erf.de/lesen/glaubens-faq/warum-musste-jesus-sterben/33618-23 (08.03.2024)
17 Romans 6:23
18 John 3:16 - American Standard Version (ASV)
19 https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_von_Nazaret (12.03.2024)
20 https://www.jesus-info.de/steckbrief-jesus-christus/ (12.03.2024)
21 Luke 2:6-7

4.2 The Life

[22]Before Jesus's birth, Mary and her fiancé Joseph lived in Nazareth. However, they had to travel to Bethlehem because of Emperor Augustus's decree to register all residents of the Roman Empire for taxation purposes. Jesus was raised by Mary and Joseph, although Joseph was not his biological father. [23]Not much is known about his childhood, except for an iconic story when he disappeared at the age of twelve in Jerusalem. During the Passover festival, his parents returned home, assuming he was with other travelers. After a day's journey, they began searching for him among relatives but couldn't find him. Eventually, they returned to Jerusalem and discovered Jesus in the temple, listening to and questioning the teachers. [24]Later in life, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. [25]At the age of thirty, he began his public ministry. [26]After leaving the Jordan region, he spent forty days fasting in the desert, enduring temptations from the devil. The devil wanted Jesus to turn stones into bread, worship him, and jump from the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem. Each time, Jesus resisted sin. [27]Upon returning to Galilee, he taught in synagogues, [28]cast out demons, and [29]healed the sick. [30]He traveled to other cities to spread the message of salvation. Along the way, he faced confrontations with the Pharisees and legal experts. [31]For instance, when he healed a paralyzed man and forgave his sins, the Pharisees accused him of blasphemy. Jesus asserted his authority. [32]On another occasion, he attended a feast with tax collectors, leading the Pharisees to question why he associated with sinners. Jesus explained that he came to call sinners to repentance. There are many other instances where Jesus clashed with the Pharisees.

4.3 The Crucifixion

[33]Because the Pharisees hated Jesus, they sought an opportunity to kill Him. [34]Judas Iscariot also looked for a chance to betray Jesus. [35]When Jesus was on the Mount of Olives, He was arrested and betrayed by Judas. [36]The soldiers guarding Jesus beat and mocked Him. [37]Later, Jesus appeared before the court. There, He declared Himself as the Son of God. The chief priests accused Him of blasphemy. When Herod questioned Jesus, He remained silent. The scribes and chief priests continued to accuse Him. Herod and his soldiers mocked Him. [38]Jesus was sent back to Pilate, who declared Him innocent. Pilate traditionally pardoned a prisoner during the Passover festival. The people had to choose between releasing the

22 Luke 2:1-5
23 Luke 2:41-48
24 Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11
25 Luke 3:23
26 Luke 4:1-13; Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13
27 Luke 4:14-15; Matthew 4:12-17; Mark 1:14-15
28 Luke 4:35; Mark 1:23-27
29 Luke 4:38-41; Matthew 8:14-15; Mark 1:29-34
30 Luke 4:42-44; Matthew 4:23; Mark 1:35-39
31 Luke 5:17-24; Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12
32 Luke 5:27-32; Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17
33 Luke 22:1-2; Matthew 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2
34 Luke 22:3-6; Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11
35 Luke 22:47-52; Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-49; John 18:2-11
36 Luke 22:63-65; Matthew 26:67-68; Mark 14:65
37 Luke 22:66; Matthew 26:59-66; Mark 14:55-64; John 18:19-24
38 Luke 22:13-25; Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; John 18:38-19:16

murderer Barabbas or Jesus. They shouted for Jesus to be crucified. Pilate tried to persuade them to release Jesus, but they remained adamant. [39]Jesus was led outside the city and nailed to the cross alongside two criminals. The chief priests and one of the criminals challenged Him to save Himself if He was the Christ. The other criminal asked for forgiveness, and Jesus promised him a place in paradise. [40]He hung on the cross for several hours until He died. [41]Afterward, He was buried in a tomb. [42]On the third day, He rose again and later ascended to heaven.

4.4 Jesus as Part of the Trinity

[43]Jesus is part of the Trinity along with the Father and the Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the Trinity states that God has one nature and three persons. This doctrine is often misunderstood, for example, some think there are three separate gods or that the Father created the Son. However, these notions are not accurate. The three persons, also called hypostases, are of the same essence, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. They share a common will, unlike three separate individuals. The three hypostases have always existed, and there was never a time when, for instance, the Son did not exist. [44]God also exists beyond time and space. [45]This is evident from the fact that God created everything, and nothing exists that was not brought into being by Him except Himself.

39 Luke 23:32-43; Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; John 19:28-30
40 Luke 23:44-46; Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; John 19:28-30
41 Luke 23:50-56; Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; John 19:38-42
42 Luke 24:1-53; Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-20; John 20:1-29
43 https://www.lacopts.org/orthodoxy/our-faith/the-holy-trinity/an-introduction-to-the-orthodox-conception-of- the-holy-trinity/ (07.04.2024)
44 https://www.bibleanalysis.org/does-the-bible-say-that-god-exists-outside-of-time/ (07.04.2024)
45 John 1:1-3

Conclusion

The question of why we are on Earth and not with God, according to Judaism and Christianity, can be answered with the Fall and sin in general. The Fall refers to the first humans committing the initial sin, which resulted in a curse upon all their descendants. The problem lies in the separation between humans and God caused by sin. While both Judaism and Christianity acknowledge this, their solutions differ. In Judaism, adherence to God’s laws is essential. In Christianity, Jesus came into the world to fulfill all laws and save humanity through His death. Christians recognize Him as the Messiah, prophesied in the Old Testament, specifically in Isaiah 53. Additionally, Jesus is part of the Trinity (also known as the Triune God), consisting of three persons or hypostases: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jews reject this doctrine, Jesus as the Messiah, and the new covenant, still awaiting their Redeemer.

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Gospel of Luke

Luke 2:1-5; Luke 2:6-7; Luke 2:41-48; Luke 3:21-22; Luke 3:23; Luke 4:1-13; Luke 4:14-15; Luke 4:35; Luke 4:38-41; Luke 5:17-24; Luke 22:1-2; Luke 22:3-6; Luke 22:13-25; Luke 22:63-65; Luke 22:66; Luke 23:32-43; Luke 23:44-46; Luke 23:50-56; Luke 24:1-53

Gospel of Mark

Mark 1:9-11; Mark 1:12-13; Mark 1:14-15; Mark 1:23-27; Mark 1:29-34; Mark 1:35-39; Mark 2:1-12; Mark 2:13-17; Mark 14:1-2; Mark 14:10-11; Mark 14:43-49; Mark 14:55-64; Mark 14:65; Mark 15:6-15; Mark 15:33-41; Mark 15:42-47; Mark 16:1-20

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